

13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



MARK LENO

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

THE LENO REPORT
An electronic newsletter to the 13th Assembly District
September 2004

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the first edition of my e-mail newsletter!

It is my hope that 'The Leno Report' will provide you with the latest information on my activities as your State Assemblyman in Sacramento, events my office is planning in San Francisco, and how you can get involved in the process.

In this issue, you will get a legislative and budget update, discover how you can take part in the fight against diabetes, learn more about my mobile district office events, woman's panel in the Bayview, back-to-school barbecue, summer block party in the Mission, and meet my summer interns.

Additionally, you can access my [press releases](#), read more about [legislation](#) I am sponsoring and read my most recent editorial on the state budget published in the San Francisco Bay Guardian by visiting my website at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a13/>

If you would like further information on any of the topics discussed in this newsletter or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at (415) 557-3013. Your calls are always welcome.

Sincerely,

MARK LENO

Assemblyman, 13th District

Sign up to receive The Leno Report

If you have been forwarded this e-mail newsletter and would like to be added to the list to receive The Leno Report each month, or if you would like to be taken of the list, please e-mail Assemblymember.Leno@assembly.ca.gov with the subject line: "The Leno Report."

Leno Leads Effort Against FMA

The California State Assembly became the first legislative body in the country to come out against the discriminatory U.S. Constitutional amendment banning marriage equality, when AJR 85 passed off the Assembly Floor in June. The resolution, which would oppose any federal measure designed to prohibit states from providing legal rights and obligations for same-sex couples and their families, is jointly authored by the members of the Legislative LGBT Caucus, and co-authored by 45 Democrats in the California Legislature.

Following the passage of the resolution, Assemblyman Leno visited George W. Bush's backyard and hand delivered a framed, signed copy of the resolution to our friends in Washington, to show them that Californians stand with them in their fight to oppose using the constitutional amendment process to single out a segment of the American population for discrimination.

As national debate started to heat up in July, Leno then sent a letter to mayors of cities in 50 states asking them to stand with the California legislature against the discriminatory federal marriage amendment. In the letter, he encouraged Mayors to urge their state lawmakers to pass a resolution in their state similar to AJR 85, and demand that our elected leaders stand up for the rights of all Americans to be treated fairly and equally under the constitution.

For more information on AJR 85: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0051-0100/ajr_85_bill_20040624_amended_asm.html

Legislative Update

As August heated up Sacramento—the legislature deliberated over hundreds of bills working their way through the legislative process. Assemblyman Leno worked on a number of important measures, which are now sitting on Governor Schwarzenegger's desk.

- **AB 1796** will allow California to join 31 other states that have opted out of a wrong-headed federal law that prohibits individuals with a prior drug-related felony from receiving federally funded food stamps. The policy has caused California to lose approximately \$1.8 million in federal funding for the food stamp program annually. Food assistance helps individuals attempting to reintegrate into society to better use their scarce economic resources. This measure had its final legislative action in the Assembly on Thursday, August 26th and was passed 43 to 32.
- **SB 1449**, which Assemblyman Leno co-authored with Senator Ross Johnson, will bolster public confidence in our campaign finance laws by closing the bank loan loophole that wealthy candidates can use to finance their own campaigns. This measure will prohibit any political candidate from accepting a bank loan for more than \$100,000, either from themselves or another party. This measure had its final legislative action in the Senate on Wednesday, August 25, and was passed 38 to 0.

- **AB 2303** will protect taxpayers from subsidizing huge bonuses for top executives by limiting the ability of utilities to give their corporate executives bonuses while insolvent. AB 2303 requires that bonuses paid out to officers or employees of an insolvent company be at the expense of the shareholders of a utility, not their ratepayers. Additionally, the company will not be allowed to deduct the costs associated with bonuses from their taxes during that period. This measure had its final legislative action in the Assembly on Thursday, August 26, and was passed 53 to 25.
- **AB 2146** will help preserve a San Francisco tradition - small, locally owned Dungeness Crab fishing businesses. Small operators are in danger of losing their place in an industry dominated by large, corporate processors. This bill would limit the number of crab traps to 250 traps per vessel. Additionally this measure would authorize the Fish and Game Commission to adopt regulations as necessary to ensure the protection of the Dungeness Crab Industry. This measure had its final legislative action in the Assembly on Thursday, August 26, and was passed 45 to 31.
- **AB 2813** will inform many Californians about their eligibility to claim the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In an effort to support low-income Californians, this measure will require employers to notify their employees that they may be eligible for the tax credit. A study obtained by the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee suggests that between \$600 and \$700 million in EITC money goes unclaimed annually by Californians eligible for the tax credit. This measure had its final legislative action in the Senate on Wednesday, August 25, and was passed 46 to 32.
- **AB 578** sets up a framework under which County Assessors and Recorders can receive documents digitally. It is the product of negotiation between county recorders, district attorneys, realtors, mortgage bankers, escrow and title companies, to achieve a workable system for the electronic recording of documents relating to property. The legislature has worked on this topic since the 1999 legislative year. This measure had its final legislative action in the Assembly on Friday, August 27 and was passed 67 to 0.

State Budget, Late Once Again

Governor Schwarzenegger signed the state budget a month late on July 31. Instead of offering sensible tax augmentations, he balanced his budget cuts to higher education and AIDS/HIV drug reimbursement costs by issuing bonds that will keep our state in debt well into the future.

An editorial Assemblyman Leno wrote for the San Francisco Bay Guardian in July explains the reason for the chronic delay that seems to plague the budget process in Sacramento every year. Why was the budget late? The simple and direct answer is that California is just one of three states in the country that require a two-thirds majority vote to pass their annual budgets.

The 2004-05 budget is the first submitted by our new governor, who as a candidate last fall professed that balancing the budget on time would be no problem. Most importantly, candidate Schwarzenegger demanded that the voters cut up the credit cards of profligately spending legislators. The irresponsible borrowing in Sacramento must end, he said.

Candidate Schwarzenegger also promised to root out the "billions and billions of dollars of waste, fraud, and abuse" in state government. Apparently the governor failed at unearthing those billions of dollars of waste, fraud, and abuse. The same guy that demanded that we must cut up the credit cards of irresponsible legislators because they will "rob you blind," is borrowing in unprecedented amounts.

Here is the full editorial in the San Francisco Bay Guardian:
http://www.sfbg.com/38/43/x_oped.html

Assemblyman Leno Kicks Off San Francisco American Diabetes Walk

Please join Assemblyman Leno and thousands of walkers around the nation participating in America's Walk for Diabetes. As the Chairman of the California Assembly's Select Committee on Childhood Obesity and Related Diabetes, Leno will be helping to kick off and make this year's walk in San Francisco a huge success.

Stay fit, reduce your risk of developing type 2, and raise money in the fight against diabetes by joining us on Friday, October 1st at 11:30 a.m. at Justin Herman Plaza. Walkers will enjoy free lunch and entertainment.

To sign up and walk as a member of "Team Leno," please call Assemblyman Leno's district office: (415) 557-3013.

Mobile District Office Round-up

Assemblyman Leno's office knows that you are not always able to take time out of your busy day to come to his office to meet with Leno or his staff on issues you feel strongly about. That is why Leno decided to take his office on the road. This last Spring, he held office hours in the evening in various parts of the city to better serve you. Here is an update on the ground we covered.

- April 15: **Cole Valley** neighbors mingled over coffee and crepes while Leno gave an update on state issues at the mobile district office event at Crepes on Cole.
- April 29: The Marcus Shelby Trio entertained **Western Addition** residents at Leno's mobile district office event at the Fillmore Promotions Office.
- May 6: Leno held a mobile district office to meet with folks over coffee in the **Marina** at the Coffee Roastery.

- May 16: Leno held an Afternoon Tea in **Chinatown** in coordination with the Chinatown Community Development Center at Gordon Lau Elementary School. While there, he was able to share goings on at the state level with over 300 people, and thanks to a translator, he was able to learn about important issues of concern to residents.

Please keep your eye open for more mobile district office events Leno plans to hold in the coming months.

Assemblyman Leno's Back-to-School BBQ

For kids and parents, the end of summer signals the return of books, backpacks and of course, back-to-school shopping. However, the latest clothes and supplies may be out of reach for many families. To assist, Assemblyman Leno held a Back-to-School Barbecue, during which 50 kids from Brete Harte Elementary School in the Bayview received backpacks, sweatshirts, and school supplies to help prepare them for the upcoming school year.

The Back-to-School Barbecue was held on Saturday, August 21 from 11-1:30 p.m. at the MLK pool, 3rd Street at Armstrong. The San Francisco Police Department was on hand to grill up hotdogs and hamburgers and Assemblyman Leno presented the kids with their back-to-school supplies.

You can make a tax-deductible donation through the African American Art & Culture Complex, 762 Fulton Street, 94102. For questions, please call my office at (415) 557-3013.

Mission Summer Block Party

Assemblyman Mark Leno, Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc. and the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce held a Summer Block Party in the Mission August 22nd, on Capp Street between 18th and 19th Streets.

Neighbors and friends spent the day learning about local organizations and meeting one another while enjoying free traditional food. Children took part in games, enjoyed decorative face painting and played in a bouncing cage. Revelers enjoyed a Mariachi Band named Aguilas de Michoacan, a Hip-Hop Band named Colored Ink and Aztec Dancers.

Young Woman's Panel in Bayview

The challenges young women face today are enormous. That is why I was proud to host a panel discussion for young women in the Bayview focused entirely on issues that young women deal with on a daily basis including gang violence, self-esteem, career paths, health and education.

I am thankful to the panel participants who spoke with over 200 Junior and Senior girls from Burton High School and Thurgood Marshall High School. I would like to thank all those who served as panel participants including: Joanne Hayes White, Chief of the San Francisco Fire Department, Sophie Maxwell, Supervisor, Heather Hiles, Commissioner on the San Francisco Unified School Board, London Breed, Exec Director of the African American Art & Culture Complex, Angela Williams, Commissioner on the Status of Women, Dr. Glenda Newell, Planned Parenthood, Marsha Ashe, Investigator for the San Francisco Police Department, Juvenile Division.

Meet the Interns

The Office of Assemblyman Mark Leno has been fortunate to work with a number of outstanding interns—both in the District and Capitol offices. Our summer interns have been working hard on a variety of different issues and projects, listed below:

Michael Chan, 17, will be starting at San Francisco State University this fall. He has been assisting on various projects, including kicking off an Asian Pacific Islander advisory committee.

Stevon Cook, 19, will be returning to Williams College in the fall. He is helping to plan a voter registration drive and block party in the Hayes Valley Housing Development.

Katie diCarlo, 19, will be attending the University of California, Berkeley in the fall. While in the office she has met city and state officials and marched in the Gay Pride Parade. Katie working on convening a Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Youth Advisory meeting and a community event in Telegraph Hill.

Latisha Dudley, 17, will be a Senior at Burton High School in the fall. Latisha is a Coro Youth Fellow and is working on a report titled "The Face of Violence." The report provides insight on the root causes and potential solutions to gang violence in San Francisco.

Veronica Lam, 16, will be a senior in high school this fall at St. Ignatius High School. She is working on an Asian Pacific Islander Youth Summit and assists with constituent casework.

Hannah Lau, 17, will be a senior in high school this fall at Lick-Wilmerding High School. While in the office, she has been working on constituent casework and budget issues.

Irene Miller has been volunteering with Assemblyman Leno since his days a City Supervisor. Irene works on a number of essential office duties and is committed to helping the office function as efficiently as possible.

Philip Meisch, 21, will be returning to California State University, Sacramento this fall as a senior majoring in Government and minoring in Criminal Justice. As a capitol intern, Philip has handled constituent mail and bill research. Philip will continue as a part-time intern through the fall semester.

Yulissa Zulaica, 21, will be returning to the University of California, Berkeley in the fall. Yulissa has been with our office for the past two years and organized the very successful Block Party in the Mission.

Bruce Traficante has been volunteering with Assemblyman Leno since his days as a City Supervisor. Bruce assists on a number of ongoing office duties including sorting mail and clipping press articles. Additionally, he is instrumental in boosting office morale.